



Docket No.: 20135-00315-US
(PATENT)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

James W. Heater, et al.

Application No.: 09/619,701

Group Art Unit: 3729

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Filed: July 19, 2000

Examiner: A. Tugbang

For: UNIVERSAL TOOL FOR UNIFORMLY
APPLYING A FORCE TO A PLURALITY OF
COMPONENTS ON A CIRCUIT BOARD

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed September 10, 2002 (Paper No. 5), Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group II, claims 11-15, drawn to a method for applying a bonding pressure to circuit boards for continued examination.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement in that claims 11-15, while drawn to a method, specifically recite that method steps are to be carried out with apparatus described in claims 1-4 including first, second and third pressure cylinders. Further, claim 12 requires process steps specifically requiring the alignment of cylinder feet with the component. The remaining claims makes specific reference to the process steps carried out with apparatus such as positioning arms (claim 13), also recited in the claims of Group I.

The apparatus of claims 1-4, also call for an apparatus having the same structure, such as pressure cylinders, support channels for supporting horizontally extending arms over a circuit board, as well as means for applying a bonding force against the components. Any search of either group of claims requires that the subject matter of the other group of claims be also searched. The process of Group II is materially linked to the apparatus of Group I, and the subject matter of these groups of claims is not sufficiently distinct to require restriction.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration is requested.

Dated: October 10, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By 
George R. Pettit, Reg. No. 27,369
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant